

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AMERICA

VALUES OF DRAMA/THEATRE

* Personal development is possible since involvement in drama:



- encourages students to sharpen their observations of people, situations, and natural phenomena
- develops students' abilities to visualize
- develops attentive listening
- enhances students' ability to think imaginatively
- develops students' powers of analysis and evaluation
- strengthens students' abilities to concentrate as they create new ideas and character
- increases students' ability to communicate their thoughts and feelings verbally and physically
- increases students' ability to interpret and communicate the ideas of the poet or playwright or author
- encourages spontaneity
- enables students to experience through dramatic play the hardships, triumphs, feelings, relationships, and thoughts of others so that they will become more sensitive to and understanding of others
- increases the students awareness of their cultural heritage
- extends students' self-confidence as they see themselves as creators, problem solvers and communicators
- provides a controlled outlet for strong emotions
- teaches students to wait their turn as they participate in the playing, analysis, and discussion
- unites the class through participation in playing, observation, and discussion
- teaches students the dynamics of group planning and decision-making, the give and take "brain-storming" process that brings people to new solutions

* Aesthetic development is possible since making drama and attending the theatre:

- strengthens the students' ability to perceive drama and theatre as a symbol, as fantasy not reality.
- helps the students understand the form of the drama--the action (problem), sequence of events
- helps students understand inner and outer characteristics of character and character objectives
- helps students understand themes in stories and plays
- helps students understand the nature and function of setting, props, lights, costumes and make-up
- helps students increase awareness of the player-audience relationship
- helps students develop audience etiquette
- helps students sharpen perception, response to the theatrical event and to literature
- helps students form aesthetic judgments about the quality of literature, dramatic performance, theatrical design
- helps students recognize the similarities and differences between television, film, and live theatre